

California Area
Indian Health Service

***Office of Environmental
Health and Engineering***

Profile of Services



Dedicated to Improving the Health of California
Indians Through the Provision of Quality
Environmental Health and Engineering Services

Office of Environmental Health and Engineering Services



The California Area Indian Health Service offers a wide range of direct services through the Office of Environmental Health & Engineering (OEH&E). Area, district, and field offices are strategically located throughout California, to ensure quick and convenient access to Indian homes, communities, and health programs.

The services provided by the California Area OEH&E are categorized into four individual components: Environmental Health Services (EHS), Health Facilities Engineering (HFE), Injury Prevention Program (IPP), and Sanitation Facilities Construction (SFC). Traditionally, each component offers specific health services. In California, the OEH&E is structured so that each component and staff work together to ensure comprehensive, high quality service to Indian people.

The OEH&E is dedicated to improving the health of California Indians through the provision of quality environmental health and engineering services. The purpose of this “OEH&E - Profile of Services” is two-fold:

- ◆ To increase awareness of OEH&E services provided to Indians in California
- ◆ To provide a directory of OEH&E Area, district, and field offices and individual contacts for each component, to assist clients with convenient access to services.



OEHE Office Locations



Environmental Health Services



Types of Services Available

Investigations: The Environmental Health Services (EHS) staff has extensive experience in investigating food borne illness, water system problems, waste disposal problems, and disease outbreaks.

Surveys: The EHS staff assists California Indian Health Programs in obtaining health program accreditation. EHS maintains updated sample policies and procedures that can be used by health programs in attaining accreditation. The EHS staff attends the most current training to provide health programs with the latest information and technical assistance when conducting "Mock" accreditation surveys. Other surveys include food establishment, head start, day care, x-ray diagnostic, and solid waste assessments. Many EHS surveys have been used to obtain grants.

Much of the training provided by EHS is conducted in the field during site assessments, community meetings, clinics surveys, and throughout projects.

Technical Assistance: EHS staff provides technical assistance in areas of public utility operation, public health ordinances, emergency preparedness, OSHA compliance, hazardous materials handling, head start and health facility design, and infection control.

Training: EHS staff are responsible for developing, coordinating, and funding workshops. Water and waste water courses are designed and conducted to assist tribal operators with obtaining State certification. Other workshop topics include solid waste and health program accreditation. EHS has a comprehensive environmental health video lending library available.

Sampling and Testing: EHS has a variety of specialized monitoring equipment which can test for mercury, nitrous oxide, carbon dioxide, fluoride in water, radon gas and other air and water contaminants.

Utility Assistance

The significant challenges and special situations that tribes face in operating small rural water and wastewater systems warrant a field-based utility assistance program.



The EHS Staff: (Left to Right) Paul Young, Geoff Langer, Robert Newsad, Nathan Quiring

In response, the IHS has developed a program to attract funding and provide on-site training and technical assistance to meet the utility needs of tribes. This component of EHS provides direct assistance to tribes with water and sewer systems.

Solid Waste

During the past 5 years, California Tribes have made significant progress in addressing solid waste issues which had previously plagued California Indians for decades. There have been many significant accomplishments which include:

- ◆ Over 15 major illegal dump sites have been remediated.
- ◆ Four Tribes have adopted Solid Waste Ordinances.
- ◆ Solid Waste Management Plans have been developed for 12 Tribes.

Through these efforts the groundwork has been laid to continue addressing remaining solid waste problems for Tribes in California.

The California Area Indian Health Service solid waste program has achieved significant results through partnership with other agencies and Tribes. Maintaining these partnerships is critical to the future success of the program. The California Integrated Waste Management Board, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and many County governments have worked closely with tribes on solid waste issues. The IHS offers assistance in securing funds and building capacity to address solid waste issues. Training provided by IHS focuses on addressing issues through local community members. IHS assists tribes with all aspects of waste management, from conducting assessments and clean ups to developing ordinances.

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A Tribal crew cleans up a site on the Pauma Reservation - 1997



Participants in one of the most popular hands-on courses: "Pumps and Controls"

Health Facilities Engineering



Types of Services Available

Representation: Provide advocacy and support Tribes and tribal health programs at the national, state, and local levels. Maintain multiple facility databases, formulate and distribute annual budgets, formulate projects, conduct program reviews, and participate on various national facilities related committees and workgroups. Serve as liaison between Tribes and other agencies in satisfying compliance requirements while assisting Tribes in maintaining their sovereignty as independent governments. Assist tribal health programs in seeking alternative funding resources.

Facilities Planning: Provide information and guidance during all aspects of planning necessary for the proper design, construction, renovation or expansion of health care facilities.

Facilities Design and Construction: Provide guidance and review of all designs for the construction, renovation, modernization, or expansion of health facilities. This includes the preparation of requests and justifications for IHS and other funding for new or replacement facilities.

Facilities Engineering: Provide guidance on the operation and maintenance of health care facilities to ensure compliance with all applicable federal and local laws, codes, and standards. Provide periodic facility inspections. Assist in developing programs for preventive maintenance, energy conservation, training, and accreditation. Formulate and distribute the Maintenance and Improvement (M&I) funds.

Clinical Engineering: Provide guidance for the operation and maintenance of clinical equipment. Formulate and distribute replacement clinical equipment funds. Provide guidance for compliance with all federal laws, codes, and standards. Assist in developing programs for accreditation. Provide a conduit for the acquisition of excess government property.

Real Property: Provide guidance and notification for activities related to federal leases, tribal leases, and acquisition of excess federal properties.



The K'ima:w Medical Center at Hoopa achieved JCAHO Accreditation in September 2000

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*California Health Programs
are Dedicated to Providing
Quality Health Care Facilities*

(Top to Bottom)

Modoc Indian Health Project
Administration Building

Santa Rosa Rancheria Clinic

Pit River Health Services
XL Ranch Reservation Clinic

Before and After



Injury Prevention



Injuries are the leading cause of death for California Indians Ages 1 to 44.

Building Health Program Capacity

The California Area Injury Prevention program sponsors National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration Child Passenger Protection certification courses. 20 Indian Health program providers were certified in July 2000. A check up event open to the public and sponsored at a local fire station provided course participants with real-world experience. The course received very high marks in the evaluations.



Participants Find the Car Seat Courses Very Rewarding

IHS Injury Courses

Introduction to Injury Prevention

An introductory course for injury prevention practitioners. Through a combination of lectures, group activities, and case studies, participants are introduced to: 1) the concept of injuries as a public health problem, and 2) the theoretical and practical aspects of planning, implementing, and evaluating injury prevention in small communities.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

An advanced course for injury prevention practitioners. Through a combination of lectures, field trips, computer lab sessions, and group exercises, participants learn to: 1) design a basic injury surveillance tool they can use in their community, 2) manage injury data through the use of the Epi Info computer program, and 3) present a preliminary analysis of their surveillance data with recommended interventions.

Translating Information into Action

An advanced course which provides the tools to facilitate community action necessary to reduce injury morbidity and mortality. Upon completion of the course, each student will possess a plan for initiating an intervention to deal with specified injury problems in their community.

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Funding Initiatives

Robert Newsad, CAIHS Injury Prevention Specialist recently assisted seven California Indian health programs in obtaining booster seats through the Ford Motor Company's "Boost America Program." Programs to receive seats directly from Ford include: Feather River Indian Health, Hoopa, Modoc Indian Health, Karuk Tribe, Northern Valley Indian Health, Quartz Valley Indian Reservation, and United Indian Health Services. The California Area Indian Health Service was also awarded approximately \$75,000 in seats which will be available to other rural Indian health programs. Additional information on the Ford Boost America Program can be found at their website: www.boostamerica.org/news15.htm



CAO has an example proposal that can be used by health programs to apply for these types of grant programs. This boiler plate was used by many of the health programs to apply to the Ford Motor Company.

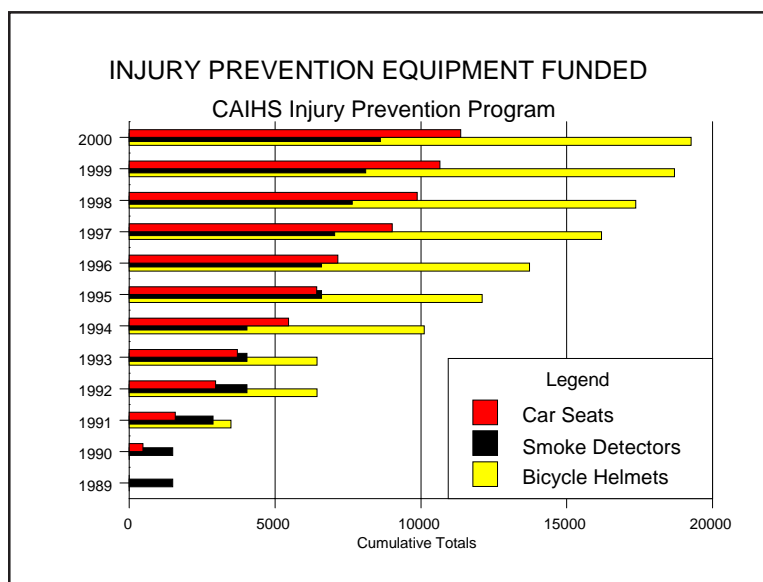
Comprehensive Injury Data

Many health programs have requested assistance in identifying and analyzing data to document and address injury problems. In response an epidemiologist was hired to examine the data available from the State for injuries to California Indians. The raw data from the State of California Morbidity and Mortality Collection System was compiled and analyzed yielding a comprehensive "Injury Atlas" specific to California Indians.



Grant Proposal Workshops

The IHS periodically sponsors grant writing workshops to assist health programs in applying for injury funds. These workshops are structured to assist participants in completing actual proposals during the workshop. Presenters from various funding agencies provide grant application materials at these workshops. Subsequent to completion of IHS grant writing workshops in 1999, CRIHB and Hoopa obtained \$500,000 in grants for their injury prevention programs.





Sanitation Facilities Construction



Mission Statement

The goal of the Sanitation Facilities Construction (SFC) program is to provide safe drinking water, adequate waste water disposal, and solid waste disposal facilities to California Indian homes and communities.

Introduction

Public Law 86-121 authorizes the SFC program to provide essential water supply and sewage and solid waste disposal facilities for American Indian homes and communities.

Safe and adequate drinking water supplies and waste disposal facilities are essential elements for prevention of disease and preservation of public health. The SFC program is a major component of the Indian Health Service's disease prevention effort.

The SFC program works together with tribal governments and organizations to provide technical and financial assistance to California Indians for essential sanitation facilities.

While 1 percent of the U.S. General Population lacks safe water and sanitation:

- 7.5% of Indian homes lack safe water and sanitation
- In some parts of Indian country, 35% of homes lack sanitation facilities
- 384 California Indian homes lack safe water and/or adequate sewage disposal systems

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SFC Program Services

1. Develops and maintains an inventory of sanitation deficiencies of Indian homes and communities.
2. Provides professional engineering services for the design and construction of water and waste disposal facilities.
3. Develops, through coordinated efforts with tribes and other agencies, multi-agency funded sanitation projects for Indian homes and communities.
4. Provides funding for water supply and waste disposal facilities.
5. Provides technical consultation and training on the operation and maintenance of tribally owned water supply and waste disposal systems.
6. Advocates for tribes during the development of national policies, regulations, and programs.
7. Assists tribes with sanitation facility emergencies.

Accomplishments

Today, as it has for the past 38 years, the SFC program continues to assist California Indians in eliminating sanitation facilities deficiencies in Indian homes and communities.

From 1962 through 2000, approximately \$78 million was appropriated for the construction of sanitation facilities for California Indians. IHS appropriations, plus contributions from other sources, funded more than 619 sanitation facilities construction projects that served over 7000 California Indian homes.



Installation of a liner at the Round Valley Reservation Wastewater Treatment Lagoon

Types of Projects

Construction projects undertaken by the SFC program fall into several funding categories. Projects may be constructed using federal procurement, Public Law 93-638, or through a Memorandum of Agreement. Project types include:

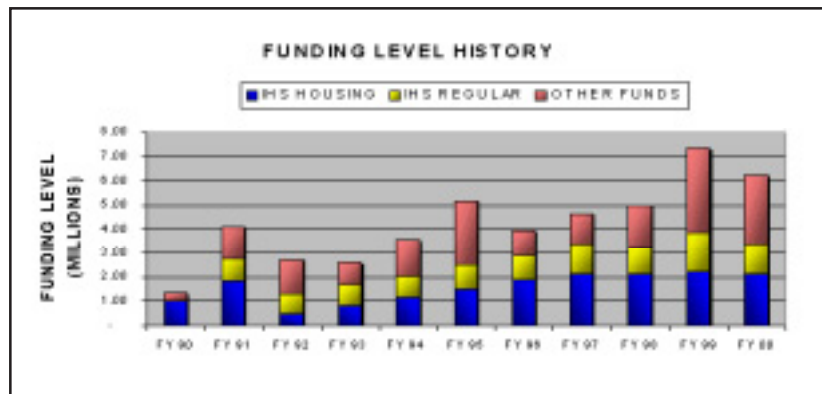
Regular Projects provide sanitation facilities for existing Indian homes and communities. Funding of these projects is based on the Sanitation Deficiency System (SDS), which is updated annually by IHS personnel with tribal input.

Housing Projects provide sanitation facilities for new homes and homes in “like new”

condition. These projects typically serve Indian homes being constructed or rehabilitated by funding provided through the Bureau of Indian Affairs-Home Improvement Program, or Department of Housing and Urban Development (DHUD) block grants.

Projects Funded by Other Sources provide sanitation facilities for existing and new homes. These projects are funded by EPA, DHUD-Community Development Block Grants, Rural Development and others. The IHS generally becomes involved with only projects that correct deficiencies to existing sanitation facilities (SDS projects).

Emergency Projects provide sanitation facilities to correct imminent threats to health caused by natural disasters and other occurrences when no other source of funding is available. The average project funding level is \$20,000 to \$50,000.



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